

WHALE FISHERY.
SHORE STATIONS.

The United States Whaling Co., at Port Armstrong, and the North Pacific Sea Products Co., at Akutan, continued as the principal operators in the whaling industry. The Beluga Whaling Co., at Beluga River, was the only other concern to engage in whaling, but its activities were confined to the capture of belugas, or white whales, in Cook Inlet. For several seasons past, similar operations were carried on near Nome by ⁿ~~Nygren~~ and ⁿ~~Tookensen~~; but there is no record that they operated in 1917.

The United States Whaling Co., operated the steamers Star I (133 tons), Star II, and Star III (97 tons each) in whale killing as formerly. The North Pacific Sea Products Co., in addition to the steamers Kodiak and Unimak (99 tons each) and the Tanginak (71 tons) also operated the gas schooner Halcyon (61 tons) as a whaling vessel. The barge Fresno (1149 tons) was used as a transporting vessel.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

The investment in the whaling industry of Alaska in 1917 was \$1,609,026, an increase of \$518,455 over 1916. A total of 162 persons was employed as against 233 in 1916. The value of the product was \$654,852, which is a gain of \$291,131 over 1916. Shore station operations resulted in the capture of 423 whales, which is 34 more than the take of the previous year.

WHALES TAKEN IN SHORE OPERATIONS IN 1917.

Species.	Number.	Species.	Number.
Bowhead.....	2	Sperm.....	51
Finback.....	153	Beluga.....	9
Humpback.....	44	Others.....	26
Sulphur-bottom.....	136	Total.....	423

INVESTMENT IN SHORE WHALE FISHERY IN ALASKA IN 1917.

Items	Number.	Value.	Items.	Number.	Value.
Vessels:			Pile drivers.....	1	100
Steamers.....	8	292,500	Seines.....	14	6,000
Net tonnage.....	662	Guns.....	5	5,625
Barge.....	1	30,000	Value of plants.....		492,000
Net tonnage.....	1,149	Cash capital.....		644,300
Launches under 5 tons	4	4,900	Wages paid.....		132,141
Boats, row.....	4	260	Total.....		1,609,926
Scows.....	4	2,100			

PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE SHORE WHALE FISHERY IN ALASKA IN 1917.

Races.	Number.
Whites.....	188
Natives.....	30
Japanese.....	44
Total.....	162

PRODUCTS OF ALASKA SHORE WHALING OPERATIONS IN 1917.

Products.	Quantity.	Value.
Whale oil.....gallons..	900,883	\$438,362
Sperm oil.....do.....	197,670	149,270
Fertilizer, meat.....pounds...	1,668,000	47,380
Fertilizer, bone.....do.....	312,600	14,340
Whale bone.....do.....	14,866	5,500
Total.....	\$654,852